



409629



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

March 19, 1981

Mr. Jon Christofferson
U.S. Steel Corporation
Minnesota Ore Operations
Mountain Iron, Minnesota 55768

Dear Mr. Christofferson:

Re: U.S. Steel Corporation, Minntac Dump Site (SL-183)

This letter acknowledges the meeting and inspection of the unpermitted Minntac dump site by representatives of the U.S. Steel Corporation and staff members from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on February 17, 1981.

During the meeting you presented Agency staff members with the proposed closure plan for the present dump site. At this time the Agency does not object to the concept of the proposed closure plan. However, there are some details that will have to be worked out with the Solid Waste Division's Permits Section. The MPCA would like to see a timetable for the closure of the dump site, to be submitted no later than April 20, 1981. The closure of the dump would not necessarily have to be a contingency of issuance of a permit by the Agency for your proposed industrial waste site. However, the Agency will expect to receive a reasonable proposal for terminating this large historical dump. If U.S. Steel would agree to separate its lunchroom waste and other "putrescibles" from its industrial waste, the closure could possibly coincide with the issuance of an Agency permit. Agency staff suggested that the non-industrial waste could go to the East Mesaba Sanitary Landfill (MPCA Solid Waste Facility Permit SW-97).

The questions of waste evaluation also arose during the course of our meeting. The Agency is requiring U.S. Steel to monitor its waste stream, that is to evaluate waste type and quantity and disposal practices for each waste. Adopting a recycling plan for your scrap metals and paper products could be beneficial to your operation. Recycling increases landfill life expectancy and promotes conservation of valuable and limited natural resources.

Phone: 612-297-3358

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Mr. Jon Christofferson
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I have enclosed a Solid Waste Disposal Facility application and the necessary information needed to obtain copies of the State Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste rules. Before any solid waste and/or hazardous waste facility permit is issued, an application with plans and specifications must be submitted for review and approval by the Agency. The necessary information for the application, construction, operation and closure of any solid waste or hazardous waste facility is provided for in these rules. Given this information, the Agency will require that U.S. Steel submit the enclosed application with plans and specifications of your proposed site to the Agency no later than April 20, 1981.

As a means of addressing the final concern discussed at the meeting, the Agency would like to know how U.S. Steel plans to manage its Mobil QQ lubricant. The proposed disposal method of mixing the Mobil QQ lubricant with fine tailings and then landfilling is not acceptable. If U.S. Steel plans to store the Mobil QQ lubricant and other lubricants on site, a hazardous waste storage permit must be obtained from the Agency. All questions regarding the permitting of a solid waste disposal facility or hazardous waste storage facility should be directed to Ms. Karen Ryss of the Solid Waste Division's Permits Section (612-297-2721). If you have any comments or questions regarding Agency requirements discussed above, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Tibbets
Michael J. Tibbets

Hazardous and Industrial Waste Unit
Enforcement Section
Division of Solid Waste

MJT:ds

Enclosures

cc: Jim Kurtz, St. Louis County Solid Waste Officer
: Ron L. Andes, U.S. Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
: Paul Haatja, U.S. Steel Corporation, Mountain Iron, Minnesota
: Daniel Retka, Regional Hydrologist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Grand Rapids
: John Pegors, Regional Director, Duluth, MPCA

chromium may be replaced by diff. reag^{ts} from agglomerator column
mercury probably plated out on copper media & containerized
~30 lbs. merc./ys.

Claim of no merc. at site

8/1980 several hundred barrels - empty, full, partially.

169 out of Virginia, West - Old Road (7th exit) to Mn. Iron - East - Rd
Minntac Site - controlled access